



# Culture, Arts & Heritage Commission

**Thursday, July 11, 2024**  
**12 p.m.**  
**Vancouver City Hall**

Aspen Room  
415 W. 6th Street  
Vancouver, WA

## AGENDA

1. Call to Order President
2. Approval of Minutes President
  - June 13, 2024
3. Interstate Bridge Replacement Program Katherine Kelly
4. Vancouver Arts and Music Festival Stacey Donovan
5. Executive Session re: potential litigation Tricia Juettemeyer  
RCW 42.30.110(1)(i)(iii) – 1 hour
6. Cultural Services Report Stacey Donovan
7. President's Report President
  - Community Events
8. Cultural Access Update Linda Reid
9. Clark County Art Commission Update Russell Ford
10. Public Comment President
11. Commissioner Updates & New Business President

For meeting materials, teleconference access, and public comment registration, find this meeting at [cityofvancouver.us/calendar](https://cityofvancouver.us/calendar).

## Members

**Brad Richardson**  
President

**Linda Reid**  
Vice President

Beth Harrington  
Julie Mercado  
Ricky Gaspar  
Lee Rafferty  
Vacant  
Rebekah Percival  
Russell Ford, CACC

**Parks, Recreation and  
Cultural Services  
Department**

P.O. Box 1995  
Vancouver, WA 98668  
360-487-8311  
TTY: 711  
[cityofvancouver.us](https://cityofvancouver.us)

**To request accommodation or other formats, please contact:**  
Kirsten Hull | 360-487-8307 | TTY: 711 | [kirsten.hull@cityofvancouver.us](mailto:kirsten.hull@cityofvancouver.us)



# Culture, Arts & Heritage Commission

## Meeting Minutes

Thursday, June 13, 2024

12 p.m.

Vancouver City Hall

Aspen Room

415 W. 6th Street

Vancouver, WA

### Commissioners Present:

Reid, Percival, Richardson, Mercado, Gaspar, Rafferty, Harrington and Ford

### Commissioners Absent:

None

### Staff Present:

Dave Perlick, Kirsten Hull, Tricia Juettemeyer, Alicia Nilo, Melody Burton and Katherine Stokke

### Guests:

None

### Item 1: Call to Order

The June 13, 2024, meeting of the Culture, Arts & Heritage Commission was called to order at 12:02 p.m. by Vice President Reid in Aspen Room at Vancouver City Hall and via Microsoft Teams. Rafferty and Richardson entered at 12:04 and 12:23, respectively.

### Item 2: Approval of Minutes

**Motion** by Ford, seconded by Mercado, and approved unanimously to adopt the minutes from May 7, 2024.

### Item 3: Tower Mall Mural Panels

Amy Zoltie, Real Estate Manager, gave an overview of the Heights District development project. The development site is bounded by Mill Plain Blvd, MacArthur Blvd and Andresen Rd and this project was installed in the city-owned Tower Mall Redevelopment Area subsection.

## Members

**Brad Richardson**  
President

**Linda Reid**  
Vice President

Beth Harrington  
Julie Mercado  
Ricky Gaspar  
Lee Rafferty  
Vacant  
Rebekah Percival  
Russell Ford, CCAC

**Parks, Recreation and  
Cultural Services  
Department**

P.O. Box 1995  
Vancouver, WA 98668  
360-487-8311  
TTY: 711  
cityofvancouver.us

**To request accommodation or other formats, please contact:**  
Kirsten Hull | 360-487-8307 | TTY: 711 | kirsten.hull@cityofvancouver.us

The site is currently vacant and will remain so until a developer is contracted to build it out in Q3 2026. City council asked for activation of the site in the interim. Public art was identified as a feasible project that would have a high community impact. First Forty Feet designed a painted bike garden with 3D mural panels interspersed throughout. There could be an opportunity for the Commission to install additional artwork, but no budget has been identified.

Commissioners had questions about the mural's life expectancy and design. Staff offered to request that information from First Forty Feet.

#### **Item 4: Application Subcommittee Recommendation**

Reid summarized the subcommittee's discussion. 21 applications were collected for the vacant seat. Reid suggested reaching out to the applicants with other opportunities to serve on local boards or volunteer, noting that the Commission receives 15-20 applications per vacancy.

Gaspar asked about the potential to expand the Commission. The Commission expressed interest in discussing changes to the Commission's charter at a future meeting.

**Motion** by Ford, seconded by Harrington, and approved unanimously to recommend Naomi O'Connor, Corey Hing, and Lucius Shields for consideration by the City Council Subcommittee.

#### **Item 5: Arts Hub Initial Activation Update**

Perlick gave an overview of work accomplished during the initial activation phase of the arts hub building. The City has contracted with theARTScentered to oversee community use during this phase. The opportunity to use the space has been announced on the City's webpage, including a webform to request access.

Richardson suggested that theARTScentered collect photographs and testimonials from current users to be incorporated into future materials for the long-term vision of the arts hub. Perlick agreed, adding that the building will be open to the public for a sneak peek during July First Friday.

#### **Item 6: Cultural Services Report**

Perlick gave the following updates:

- Vancouver Arts and Music Festival will be held August 2-4, with double the number of artists from last year.
- The City is facing a significant budget deficit for the next biennium. PRCS has been assigned a 15% reduction in budget to address the gap and this will result in a reduction in services. Richardson encouraged the commission to advocate for limiting cuts to PRCS, contending that reductions in this department will have significant impact to livability.
- City Council has signaled support for adopting a Cultural Access tax and has identified the Culture, Arts & Heritage Commission as the entity to guide its establishment in Vancouver. A subcommittee was formed to consider recommendations. Richardson, Reid, Gaspar and Harrington volunteered.

#### **Item 7: President's Report**

Richardson noted that the Cultural Access group has been looking at potential changes to the Commission's charter and bylaws to support transitioning the existing commission to a Cultural Access Advisory Committee.

#### **Item 8: Cultural Access Update**

No additional discussion presented.

**Item 9: Clark County Arts Commission Update**

Ford reported that the Clark County Arts Commission will lose two important leaders in the coming months and failing recruitment of new members interested in taking on a leadership role from the start, the commission could disband. There has been discussion of advocating for city-based commissions in other cities like Ridgefield and Camas since the County Commission does not have budget or staff.

**Item 10: Public Comment**

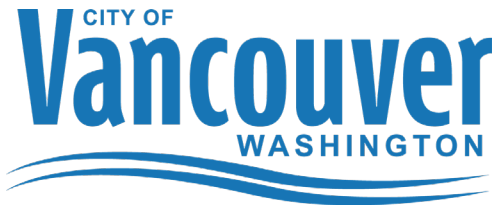
None presented.

**Item 11: Commissioner Update and New Business**

Rafferty announced that VDA is doing a grand opening block party for the mural installed on the Evergreen Blvd overpass and acknowledged Ford as the instigator for that project.

**Adjourned**

This meeting adjourned at 1:24 p.m.



## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** July 11, 2024

**TO:** President Linda Reid and Culture, Arts & Heritage Commission members  
**CC:** Rebecca Kennedy, Community Development Department

**FROM:** Shilpa Mallem, Design Manager, Interstate Bridge Replacement Program  
Hayli Reff, Cultural Resources Manager, Interstate Bridge Replacement Program

**RE:** **Interstate Bridge Replacement Program Update**

---

### **Background**

The City of Vancouver is one of eight local partner agencies on the Interstate Bridge Replacement (IBR) program, which covers a five-mile corridor along Interstate 5, including the Interstate Bridge and seven interchanges. At this meeting, IBR program staff will provide a general program overview, a brief overview of the Section 106 process, and conduct a walkthrough of the preliminary map of the proposed program investments currently being evaluated in the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS). The proposed program investments associated with the Modified Locally Preferred Alternative approved in 2022, include a replacement bridge over the Columbia River, interchange and roadway improvements, extension of light rail service with two stations in Downtown Vancouver, enhanced bus services and connections, and new pedestrian/bicycle facilities such as a shared use path over the river. The presentation will focus primarily on the proposed program investments in Vancouver.

The IBR program is conducting a robust cultural resources consultation process, as federally mandated under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. This process requires consideration of the effects on historic properties within the Area of Potential Effect (APE). The feedback that we gather from this process will help us understand these important places.

Section 106 and NEPA are separate laws that federal agencies must comply with, and both establish a process to evaluate impacts that result from project design and operation, including impacts to cultural resources and the environment. The laws also require that consultation is undertaken with tribes, consulting parties and the general public on potential impacts and mitigation. Federal guidance encourages these reviews to occur simultaneously, such that one review informs the other. The program is coordinating these evaluations and both reviews are being taken into consideration as design progresses.

## Interstate Bridge Replacement Program Update

July 11, 2024

Page 2 of 2

### Timeline

The IBR team is preparing to release the Draft SEIS for a 60-day public comment period later in 2024. All comments received during this time will be compiled into a Final SEIS, along with responses to the comments. Based on public feedback and additional analysis, the IBR team in coordination with program partners will narrow down the design options into a single solution for moving forward into construction. The environmental review process will result in an Amended Record of Decision (ROD), which is currently anticipated to occur in 2025. The Amended ROD allows the IBR program to begin using funds for construction.

### Action and Next Steps

No action is requested with this presentation. The information presented at this meeting is intended to increase awareness of the IBR program and prepare Commission members for the upcoming public comment period and subsequent steps. City staff working on the IBR program will continue to keep the Commission updated. For detailed information, please refer to: <https://www.interstatebridge.org>.

### Staff Contact

Katherine Kelly, Senior Policy Advisor, Community Development Department,

[Katherine.Kelly@cityofvancouver.us](mailto:Katherine.Kelly@cityofvancouver.us)

Lori Severino, Senior Planner, Community Development Department,

[Lori.Severino@cityofvancouver.us](mailto:Lori.Severino@cityofvancouver.us)

Attachment(s): None.



## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** May 10, 2024

**TO:** Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission

**FROM:** David Perlick, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services

**RE:** **BUDGET MEMORANDUM**

**CC:** **Katherine Stokke**

---

The City of Vancouver budget is determined on a biennial basis. Budget proposals for the 2025-2026 biennium are beginning to be developed now. As part of this process, leadership staff from the City's Financial and Management Services department recently provided a financial forecast that shows expenses outpacing revenues in the City's general fund. This will necessitate identifying reductions in services to address the projected deficit. This memo will provide you with an overview of what we know at this time.

### **Budget Outlook**

Cities in Washington face a structural funding deficit where limits on the growth of tax revenues are typically well behind inflation and the growth in expenses. This situation is further exacerbated by recent high inflation rates and a leveling in revenues due to lower construction levels. The current projected deficit in the general fund is \$15.2 million in 2025 and \$27.8 million in 2026. This means that if the City does nothing else to reduce expenses or add revenues, there would be a \$43 million deficit in the 2025-2026 biennium.

Cities are required to create a balanced budget. City of Vancouver leadership is looking at a variety of options to address this situation. A number of potential revenue sources were reviewed at a May 6 City Council work session. There is interest in exploring some of these revenue tools, with more work occurring to fully understand the opportunities they provide. However, at this point, new revenue is not expected to address a majority of the deficit.

City departments will be working on a review of all services and identifying options to address the deficit. The initial target for Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services is savings of 15%. As stated above, there are some options, including revenue, that could reduce this 15% target, but this is our starting point for biennium budget planning.

### **Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Approach**

Elements of the citywide budget process are still being finalized, but we are beginning to review this situation with our staff to build a strategic department-wide approach. Here are some highlights:

- Our current expenditure and revenue management is good; we are under expenses and exceeding revenue targets. We start from a very stable position.
- We have recently completed strong planning to update our staff deployment model to address restrictions in part-time staffing, and we will continue to build on this analysis.
- We have discussed options for appropriate increases in user fees with the Commission, and this will certainly be part of our department-wide solution for the upcoming biennium.
- To best preserve current staff, we are keeping all current staffing vacancies unfilled while we address this situation.
- We will engage in a strategic review of all our services based on several values, including financial metrics, affordability, access and maintaining a balanced set of services.
- Overall, our capital program is not impacted at this time. Capital projects are budgeted based on existing resources, so we are in a position to continue budgeted projects. We will continue to monitor longer term.
- While we are taking a very proactive and strategic approach, it is important to state that a 15% budget reduction will likely require significant reductions in services, which will impact the community.

### **Next Steps and Role of the Commission**

We are still early in the process and don't have all the information we need yet. I value transparency and am committed to open communication by sharing what we know when we know it.

Sr. Management Analyst Katherine Stokke and I will discuss this with you at the May 15 regular Commission meeting. We will use part of this time to provide a better overview of our current budget and expenditure and revenue trends.

In the coming months, we will regularly be allocating time at Commission meetings to provide updates and ultimately present to you the recommendations that we will be



submitting to the City Manager. Your review, feedback and advocacy are an important part of this process. We will look forward to hearing your suggestions and insights during our discussion at the May 15 meeting.